

## REMARKS

At the time the present Office Action issued, claims 3 to 35 were pending.

Applicant elects, with traverse, Group III as identified in the Office Action, and restricts the claims accordingly by withdrawing not-elected claims from consideration.

It is respectfully pointed out that an error seems to have been made in the restriction requirement. The supposed error resides in that the Office Action has identified claim 23 as belonging to Group II, whereas it belongs to Group III because it is dependent on claim 12 which also belongs to Group III.

Reconsideration and modification of the Restriction requirement is thus respectfully requested. However, in order to not unnecessarily slow down the process of Examination, Claim 23 has not been withdrawn from consideration.

It has been pointed out in our previous response letter (as dispatched on September 25, 2006) that the presently elected claims 12 and 24 and their dependent claims 13 to 15, 23, and 25 to 28 are expected to be allowable because they contain subject matter from claim 6, which was identified by the Examiner in a previous Office Action (mailed 30 June 2006) to contain allowable subject matter. Even though the independent claims 12 and 24 do not contain the full subject matter of the intervening claims, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are expected to be allowable for at least the same reason as claim 6 because the stated allowability does not seem to have depended on features from these intervening claims. Examiner is kindly referred to our previous response letter for further details on claims 12 and claim 24 and their relationship with the original claims.

In conclusion, Attorney has addressed each and every ground for objection and rejection raised by the Examiner in the Office Action. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Attorney respectfully submits that the specification and elected claims are in a state ready for allowance. In the event the Examiner has any questions or issues regarding the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned prior to the issuance of any written action.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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